

What to expect when you visit the Numismatic Museum - Money Museum Aruba

First you will be welcomed at the front door by a numismatist / money collector and also your tour guide. Make sure you have at least 30 minutes to hear about Aruba's history thru monetary development.

Touring the Timeline in the Numismatic Museum will show you an exiting history of Aruban Economy and Money of the past and the present.

In the *first room* you will get information about the present and the consequences of the "Separate Status" (separation from the Netherlands Antilles) that Aruba gained in 1986. From the artist that designed our money until the latest minted proof commemorative coins. In this room you will also learn about the family tradition of coin collectors on the island and the founder of the museum, **Juan Mario Odor**.

The second room is displayed with showcases forming a timeline which starts with the

First display : Spanish colonization:

Around 1499 the Spanish "discovered" the islands. The native Indians, the Caquetio tribe, were living on the island and had their own way of barter. They used tiny buttons made of shell for body decoration such as necklaces and also used these beads as a form of exchange. The Spanish introduced their reales (former Spanish currency) in the new world. Coins in circulation on other Caribbean islands (Colonized) were also accepted. Danish, British, German and Portuguese coins was common in the Caribbean. The (Europe) colonists did not only bring their believes, culture and language in the Caribbean but also their currencies (money).

Second display : Republic of seven / Batavian Republic

In this display you will see coins from the Dutch Republic of seven (Republic of the united Netherlands), dating back from the 16th century, including the first coins used in the U.S.A. during Dutch colonization of New Amsterdam (New York). See also coins of the Spanish Netherlands and the Austrian Netherlands period, the Batavian Republic and the Napoleonic Kingdom of Holland.

Third display: The Dutch West Indies Company

This company was established in the early 17th century and became the largest trade company ever to exist. Admire the type of coins they used during this period of trade in the new world accompanied by history markings of Peter Stuyvesant and New Amsterdam (New York). The Spanish reales were also gladly accepted by the Dutch traders.

Fourth display: beginning and midst 19th century

Due to shortage of money in this harsh period the governor gave order to cut the 8 reales in pieces (pie-shaped) which were called guillotines (bits / yotin). This proved to be very practical and the islands used them for almost a century. In this display you will learn about the law currency of 1854 and the monetary consequences of the abolition of slavery by the Dutch in 1863. Also learn more about the establishment of the Jewish community on the islands.

Fifth display: 1888 - 1900

With the abolition of slavery the economy of the islands changed drastically, slaves kept working for old slave owners but now with payment. The Curacaosche Bank (*Central Bank 1825) made a list in 1888 with different currencies we could use on the islands. This was a difficult time for the islanders as they had to calculate from strange currency to Dutch currency. Admire coins from different countries used on the islands in the end of the 19th century including U.S.A, Venezuela, Colombia, Peru and much more.

Sixth display: Beginning of the 20th century : “Colony Curacao”

Two huge monetary changes came along in the 20th century. The first was a new currency law (1899) that allows the islands to use only Dutch decimal coins, with the guilder as standard currency. The second was the first two coins minted specifically for the six islands, melted out of the 8 reales silver coins, bearing the legend: “Kolonie Curacao”. The beginning of a lot changes, including administration of all the six island by Curacao.

Sixth A wall display: Banknotes of Curacaosche Bank (Central Bank)

Admire the evolution of banknotes bearing the legend “Curacaoshe Bank”. Economic development in Aruba start as early as 1930, the oil refinery brought prosperity and Aruban politicians started to raise their voices in order to achieve more autonomy for Aruba instead of sharing its prosperity with all the other islands. Investing in our own island seemed like a good idea.

Seventh display: World War II coins

During the W.W. II Aruba was the largest supplier of aviation fuel for the U.S.A and the Allies. This is the reason why we were targeted by the Germans with U-boats. The Dutch royalty and government fled to England while the Netherlands was occupied by the Germans. During this period coins were minted in the U.S.A at the Denver and Philadelphia mint for the Dutch colony. Beautiful historical silver pieces bearing the legend: “Munt van Curacao” (coin of Curacao).

Eight wall display: Banknotes Netherlands Antilles

In 1954 the 6 islands signed a treaty to become: the Netherlands Antilles. A new status that reflects an autonomous state within the Kingdom. Now the Banknotes are bearing the legend: Central Bank of the Netherlands Antilles.

This system was not what the island of Aruba expected and it stayed in this position until 1986. This is where the Netherlands granted Aruba a separate status within the Dutch Kingdom.

Ninth display: coins of the Netherlands Antilles

Here you can admire the first Netherlands Antilles coins and the last ones including some medals and the proof commemorative coins minted for the six islands.

Tenth wall display: Netherlands Antilles of five islands.

Aruba's separation from the Netherlands Antilles is a consequence of the islands economic evolution and revolution. Curacao, Bonaire, Saba, St. Maarten and St. Eustatius form the new Netherlands Antilles after 1986. In the last display you can view the banknotes and coins that they are currently using.

KNOW MORE ABOUT THE ISLAND OF ARUBA AND ITS PEOPLE

